

PARISH NEWS

First Holy Communion (updated)

2020 Children: our delayed parish celebrations are either 25th June or 3rd July. Each family is allocated one bench, which holds six people (*including the candidate*). Although, we hope the restrictions are lifted on 21st June, we plan cautiously in case some limitations remain. Twenty children per celebration allows us to keep space between each family, and six per bench keeps us under the 50% capacity permitted for one-off celebrations.

2021 Children: our priests are hearing First Confessions at **10.30am on Saturdays: 5th June, 12th June and 19th June.** As the end of the school year approaches, we encourage you to make use of these dates. So far, 18% of those who signed up for the 'at home' course have made their Confession. Remember, you need to have watched & read the gospel, be attending Mass either in person or via Live Stream and completed the 1st four chapters of the '*I Belong*' book before your First Confession. We encourage Catholic parents also to make a confession. Help sheets:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/fhc-reconciliation-children-and-parents.pdf>

After your First Confession you can book a place for your First Holy Communion on either 25th September or 2nd October at 12noon at St Martha's, and also complete the remaining six chapters of '*I Belong*'.

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity

It was suggested that if we wrote nothing more than '*body, blood, soul, and divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*' to describe what we receive in Holy Communion, we would merit a basic pass in our Theology exams on the Eucharist.

*O bread of heaven, beneath this veil,
thou dost my very God conceal;
my Jesus, dearest treasure, hail;
I love thee and adoring kneel.
Each loving soul by thee is fed
with thine own self in form of bread'.*

In Holy Communion Jesus gives himself to us totally, holding nothing back, and so, we are invited to make as full as possible response, holding nothing of ourselves back in our commitment of service to Him and the Church. The Eucharist is more than just Holy Communion, referring to the whole sacrifice of the Mass. Through human eyes, it may seem that Mass is '*boring*', but with faithful eyes we see re-presented '*beneath this veil*' the Last Supper, Calvary, and the Resurrection, the central mystery of our salvation:

'O God, in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption'.

I pray that this will be motivation enough to reconnect with the Mass and Eucharist in the coming weeks and months, and be especially so for any child on the First Holy Communion programme to turn the X-Box off and prioritize their preparation, so that they can be admitted to the fullness of the Eucharist as they receive their First Holy Communion.

With every blessing, Fr Simon.

We pray for those who have died: Anna Vent RIP, William Coughlan RIP (**NB: it is taking about two weeks to arrange funerals at the moment. Although the 30 limit on funerals was lifted on 17th May, we understand the COVID capacities apply (see below). Other COVID precautions may still apply.**

We pray for the sick: Roy Cox, Margaret Pink, Margaret Hitchman, Martin Stiles, David Spooner, Doreen Turner, Martin Murphy, Samuel Barden, Baby Hope Leahy.

Church Capacities: 50 units of people (updated) (up to a max of 66 individuals) at St Martha's and **60 units of people (max 80 individuals)** at St Mary Magdalene. See note below "Government Roadmap".

Parish Halls: There is a requirement that the parish must ensure (*either by paying a contractor or training a parish volunteer team*) that the hall is sanitized after every booking, and that we cannot leave it to the hall hirer. This is what is currently preventing us from re-opening St Martha's hall. Hopefully, this requirement will be relaxed when all restrictions are lifted on 21st June, until then, at the earliest, we do not have a date for re-opening. St Mary Magdalene Hall is currently undergoing, via an insurance claim, extensive repairs following the flood at Easter. Further investigations this week, suggested the damage may have been more significant and a further survey may be needed. Initial conversations with our heating engineer also suggest the boiler in St Mary Magdalene Hall has reached the end of its life.

Gift Aid Offertory Envelopes: we have not ordered any new gift aid offertory envelopes this year as they are expensive and most (*due to the pandemic*) lay uncollected last year. If you need envelopes, **please contact the parish office** who will see if your envelopes from last year are still available or put together a pack for you. Alternatively, you could buy a pack of envelopes from any good shop and simply write your gift aid number and date on it. Better still, why not move your offertory online by setting up a standing order. If you need help doing so, contact your bank or the parish office.

From CAFOD: As coronavirus devastates India, CAFOD is working with the local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: cafod.org.uk/give.

Bexhill Fairtrade Group (updated): Jack Doherty has provided an update, which can be found in the newsletter section of our parish website: <https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/latest-update-from-the-bexhill-fairtrade-group-may-2021.pdf> which includes suggestions on how we might begin to create the future we want: a more inclusive, fraternal, peaceful and sustainable world. Please do click on the link and write out your aspirations for a better just world on your own piece of 'bunting'.

Westminster Cathedral (29th May 2021): The Archdiocese of Westminster have issued an explanatory note about last weekend's wedding: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/wedding-in-westminster-cathedral/>

Note about the attack on the Church of O.L.R in Sidley:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/06/our-lady-of-the-rosary-church-sidley-attempted-arson-attack-27th-may-2021.pdf>

Parish Clergy: Fr Simon Dray, Fr Rajesh Minz, Deacon Simon Kirkdale
Administrators: Bonita Osmond-Maher & Lisa Young
Safeguarding: Sylvia Cousins

Baptism: applications can still be submitted: www.stmmbexhill.co.uk/baptismal-form/ and you will then be directed to the online preparation. Baptisms are now permitted as part of the Roadmap Stage 3.

Confirmation: Bishop Richard will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at 7pm in St Mary Magdalene on Friday 8th October 2021. We are very fortunate to have our own parish celebration.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) & Christian Initiation of Children of Catechetical Age (7+) (CICCA): these courses are not due to begin until October and November respectively, and we will update you on plans later in the summer, once we have more certainty with the unlocking.

Non-Urgent Pastoral Visits to the Housebound: If you need the Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 01424 210263 or email bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk to make an appointment for a priest to make a one-off visit. Please let us know of any COVID concerns.

Fighting Modern Slavery (Steering Group): The latest edition of 'Fighting Modern Slavery' (issue 3) can be downloaded from the newsletter section of the parish website:

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/modern-slavery-newsletter-issue-3.pdf>

The Steering Group seeks parish and deanery Modern Slavery Awareness Ambassadors. More information: Rosie Read at rosie.read@abdiocese.org.uk

Mass Intentions: there is availability throughout the summer for Mass Intentions for the repose of the soul of a loved one or the good estate (well-being) of a family member. requests to: bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Letter for Corpus Christi from Bishop Richard

<https://catholicparishofbexhill.files.wordpress.com/2021/06/pastoral-letter-6th-june-2021-corpus-christi.pdf>

An Invitation from the Catholic Women's League: The Catholic Women's League (CWL) is a National and International Organization, and the only one for all women in the parish. We share our faith, our skills and our friendship. We support the local community, we keep the parish, and the church in the world and in our hearts and we invite speakers to enrich and entertain us. We also go on pilgrimages and outings, plus we have a good laugh, drink tea and wine!

Come & Join Us (*when the restrictions allow, and the parish halls reopen*):

1st Monday of the Month at 7.30pm St Martha's.

And please join us for our fundraising events

- 8th July: Sponsored walk for the Medaille Trust
- 15th August: Summer Garden Party & Fair at St Martha's

[Please also see note about the halls on page 2 of this newsletter]



Parish Office

Remains closed to casual callers.

All enquiries:

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

Sacrament of the Sick

Urgent Requests

Last Rites does not mean Last Minute!

As soon as a person begins to be in danger of death because of illness, injury or old age, the time for anointing has surely already come.

Office hours

bexhill@abdiocese.org.uk

01424 210 263 opt 4

out of hours

simon.dray@abdiocese.org.uk

Hospital Visits

For **DGH Eastbourne & Conquest Hastings** you must contact the Conquest Chaplaincy on 01424 757088 who co-ordinate all visits to both hospitals (out of hours ask the Ward to call the on-call Catholic chaplain). For **Bexhill Hospital**: contact Fr Rajesh on 01424 210263

Care Home Visits

You must first clear the visit with the Home before contacting us to arrange a visit. We will discuss with you / the home as to what is most appropriate.

Home Visits

Please contact us above to discuss the most appropriate response. A member of the family bubble should be present when a priest visits, stepping out of the room for Confession.

Please do not wait until the end, as the priests may be otherwise engaged.

Parish Mass Diary and Intentions

Facebook Live: www.facebook.com/stmmbexhill

Saturday 5th June	Solemnity	Vigil Masses of Corpus Christi
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Fr Boniface Moran GE
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions and (<i>including 1st Reconciliations for 2021 children</i>)
St Mary Magdalene	3.00pm	Baptism of Mia Dadswell
Facebook Live Mass	6.00pm	Vigil of Corpus Christi: Pro Populo

CORPUS CHRISTI B

Ex 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15 (Sequence) & Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Sunday 6th June	Solemnity	3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Richard Coombes RIP
St Mary Mags (& Facebook)	11.00am	Intentions of Adam Clarke
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	Those fallen on D-Day

Second Collection: Parish Lourdes Fund

[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Monday 7th June	Ferial	Monday in 10th Week in OT
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Priest's Intentions

Tuesday 8th June	Ferial	Tuesday in 10th Week in OT
Facebook Live Mass	10.00am	Maura McElligott RIP
St Martha's	7.00pm	Reception for William Coughlan RIP

Wednesday 9th June	Requiem	The Funeral is restricted to 66 people
St Martha's	11:00am	Requiem Mass: William Coughlan RIP

Thursday 10th June	Solemnity	Vigil Mass of the Most Sacred Heart
St Mary Magdalene	6.30pm	Public Mass: Mass with the Sacraments for Frankie and Florence Schofield

Friday 11th June	Solemnity	THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Peter Brincat RIP
St Mary Magdalene	10.45am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
St Mary Magdalene	7.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 12th June	Memorial	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
St Mary Magdalene	10.00am	Public Mass: Mass of Thanksgiving
St Mary Magdalene	10.30am	Confessions and Adoration <i>including 1st Reconciliations (Confessions)</i>
Facebook Live Mass	6.00pm	Vigil of Sunday: Joseph Thomas RIP

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

Ez 17:22-24, 2 Cor 5:6-10 & Mk 4:26-34

Sunday 13th June		3 Public Masses (first-come, first served)
St Martha's	9.00am	Joy (Maise) Brown RIP & Brown Family
St Mary Magdalene	11.00am	Fr Rajesh Minz GE
St Mary Magdalene	6.00pm	People of the Parish

Second Collection: Lepra

[St Martha's] [11.00am] [Syro-Malabar Rite Mass]

Parish Offertory: A simple way to donate (+gift aid) online via Diocesan Website:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/donate/>

For Mass offerings & other payments: BACs: Name: St Mary Magdalene, Acct

No. 21077139, S/C 40-05-20.

Please indicate what the payment is for in the reference.